Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
10/4/76

Adam Hochschild, Editor
Mother Jones
607 Market St.,
San Francisco, Ca. 94105

Dear Mr. Hochschild,

Sorry my letter of 9/21 was not clear. I'm afraid this is less uncommon than I'd like it to be. I'm into too much. Tend to confabulate. I've been on this subject so intensively for 13 years I forget to distinguish between what is in my mind and is not in the reader's.

I'm working on the reprinting of my third book. It is on the suppression of the photographic evidence in the JFK case. I print by offset, reducing the typed page. I have completed the draft for book rather than magazine use. The draft is typed as to be used in the book because I have to know the space it will take. Although it lacks the facsimiles I'll be using I'll make a copy and enclose it. It contains what I think can make two separate pieces. It is possible that Jack Anderson may use the second part. I gave it to Les Whitten Thursday.

I presumed you knew about "black books." They are an old intelligence-agency device. Their purpose is often disinformation. Sometimes they are to build sympathy for the spooks. The classic in the JFK case is Farewell America. It came from the French SDECE. It was aimed at Garrison and at discrediting all criticism. Two recent books of this nature, total frauds, are McDonald's and another by Robert Morrow, Betrayal. Morrow actually conned the sponsor of the House resolution that is the legislative basis for the assassinations investigation just voted. Each work of this nature start a whole school of mythology that confuses all the real issues and the public, political and media minds. The net result is the destruction of all credibility. Morrow's book is in some ways more successful because it has already deceived the Congress and misled the chairman of the investigating committee.

I do have a story, an expose of Mark Lane in mind. He has made himself a folk hero by a skilled blend of self-promotion, thievery and unscrupulousness. My immediate interest comes not from his current stealing but from its inevitable consequences, the further misleading of the Congress and the exculpation of the FBI. Because he does no original work, because he steals the work of others, as a general rule he lacks comprehension of the actualities. He then embellishes, seeking attractiveness. He has become the major disinformation operator in the field of assassinations. From all the attention he has received this may seem unreal but it is, tragically enough because he is able. I have in mind a selection of the too many specifics, working backward from the present.

Each would be a separate article. They would be interrelated. Each would contain new information about the assassinations. Aside from what they would tell your readers through their content these pieces would all address the misleading of the Congress now that it has decided to investigate the assassinations. In combination all the factors and people involved, regardless of intention, have become a major disinformation operation. We have sincere but wrong-headed legislators who have been misled by self-seekers, self-promoters and former spooks and an odd bag of assorted nuts. The result is that today it is almost impossible for private citizens, legislators or editors to know what is true or even can be true. There are few authentic experts in this field. They not only are

never heard - they can't be heard. Editors like Ben Bradlee just throw up their hands in dismay, as he has in letters to me. Congress has voted an investigation with a single member consulting a single authentic expert.

For your understanding I illustrate with the King assassination.

Jim Lesar is Ray's only criminal counsel. He has done all the legal work in the Ray defense. I am Ray's only investigator. Between us Jim and I must have spent more than 15,000 hours working on the King assassination. No member of the Black Caucus has sought either of us out. Delegate Fauntroy swung the vote on creating the committee without speaking to anyone who has done any original work on the King assassination. He was misled. He misled the Congress. Lane and Abby Mann, who stole some of the work of a black reporter friend of mine, Les Payne, and my work, either did not understand what they stole or didn't give a damn. As a result they actually led Fauntroy to believe that the FBI killed King. The FBI had an entirely different involvement. Almost certainly, certainly on the basis of all I've learned from hours and hours with Ray and from my own investigations, it did not kill King. Yet this, not the reality, is the actual basis for the new Congressional investigation.

The FBI's responsibility is for King's being in Memphis to be killed there, not for his being killed. Hoover did this through his Cointelpro operations, with the local police. The difference is vast. The Department of Justice is now in its fourth internal "re-investigation" of the FBI and the King assassination. All are secret investigations, if that is the right word. When the FBI is accused of the wrong crime it will be exculpated with ease and the entire investigation by the Congress will be turned around unless the direction of the investigation is changed immediately.

I hope this clarifies what I have in mind for the purposes of the articles and that it explains enough of what I mean by disinformation.

However, each article would be self-standing, a separate piece, complete within itself.

There can be enough of them to make a book.

This has never been done. The one piece I remember, Hinckle's on Farewell America, is a self-service of deliberate inaccuracy. He was conned when he edited Ramparts. His later magazine piece in Farewell America did not tell the real story.

Unless the House investigation is straightened out it will be aborted. The means by which this is being accomplished is disinformation, by the agencies which leak what they want to receive attention and by the self-seekers, self-promoters and just plain nuts.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg